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Facsimile Transmittal sheet

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ce: REP BOOZMON



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January 16, 2002

Attorney General Ashcroft US Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing to convey my support for the recently negotiated settlement between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. As the rhetoric in this suit progressed, it became increasingly clear that motives on both sides had degenerated to the point of bitter, childish rivalry, rather than constructive progress. Ultimately, the threat to break Microsoft up proved to be overenthusiastic.

While this entire fiasco has impacted my business very little, it simply would have complicated our business if we had to deal with two, three, or ten "Baby Bills" rather than one.

This settlement at least has the advantage of sidetracking that possible eventuality; instead, Microsoft has agreed to some very stringent limits on their business practices, such as licensure and software design. This settlement reassures the IT community and the purchasing public that they can expect much of the same quality and consistency from Microsoft in the future, as they have experienced in the past.

Sincerely,

Michael Gracie

IT Director

cc: Representative John Boozman

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